

L E T T E R



Right Hon ble * * * * *

MY LORD,

I Little expected when I sat down to write to your Lordship, that what was intended only for your Private View, would be expos'd to the Public: Yet conscious that it was from no sinister View, I do not repent that it was; I am sorry indeed that there was one Misrepresentation, but not ashamed to confess it. The witty Jest of the Day on the Word *Lies*, led me to believe it was distinguish'd by the Printer; and the Mistake was easy, as he is fond of distinguishing for the sake of his Zealous Readers, whom he terrifies with glaring Characters of SPIRITUAL PERSECUTORS, LAW TYRANTS, and REVENUE LEECHES, or charms with a few pleasing honourable Words, worthy indeed of Golden Characters if rightly understood; While I fear his Design is to impose on their Understandings, and inflame their Imaginations to conceive, that every Man is an Enemy to his Country, whose Violence falls short of his own. I acknowledge my Mistake, and when he convinces me of another, I will acknowledge that too: I do it publicly, because the Misrepresentation was public. But now, my Lord, to justify what I have said of the Spirit of some Men amongst us, let me refer you to all that has been published; let me refer you to the News-writer only; to the very Paper subsequent to that which I before condemn'd.

TO the UNIVERSAL ADVERTISER.

A LETTER from a Gentleman in *Ireland* to his Friend in *England*.

SIR, You seem very inquisitive into the Disputes subsisting here, between Sir George English and his Irish

‘ Tenants, and request to know how they will end.
 ‘ To tell you this, passes my Skill ; but as I love and
 ‘ honour *Sir George*, and am desirous to gratifie you,
 ‘ I shall relate what happened within my own Know-
 ‘ ledge and Memory.

‘ ‘ *Sir George’s* Ancestors had always a valuable Con-
 ‘ cern in *Ireland*, but made little of it, till his Uncle
 ‘ *Sir William* came here in Person, and made Leases
 ‘ with *Englisb* Covenants ; which encouraged the Te-
 ‘ nants, and the Rents grew better as the Times
 ‘ mended. They were the best Tenants both to *Sir*
 ‘ *George* and his Father before him, that they ever had
 ‘ any where ; and they both seemed sensible of it, till
 ‘ about thirty Years ago, one *Robin Fingerfee*, a *Nor-*
 ‘ *folk* Attorney, became sole Agent to *Sir George*, and
 ‘ put Whims into his Honour’s Head, as if his Irish
 ‘ Tenants were a pack of Knaves and Cheats, owed
 ‘ him an immense Sum of Money, and were grown
 ‘ rich as Jews by withholding his Royalties. After him
 ‘ *Tom Dunderbead*, a *Newcastle upon Tyne* Man, be-
 ‘ came Agent, and harped on the same String, and
 ‘ having *Sir George’s* Ear, told him one Day that all
 ‘ the Money in possession of his Irish Tenants, was by
 ‘ right his Honour’s, and proved it thus (for he had
 ‘ learned Logic at *Cambridge* ;)

‘ ‘ Either all the Money in *Ireland* belongs to your
 ‘ Honour, or it belongs to Nobody.

‘ ‘ But it can’t belong to Nobody, as it first becomes
 ‘ *Stray* or *Treasure Trove*.

‘ ‘ Therefore it belongs to your Honour, as Lord of
 ‘ the Soil. Now, *Sir George*, like all other rich Men,
 ‘ could not abide Logic, or long Reasonings, but took
 ‘ up with the Conclusion, supposing the Premisses to
 ‘ be right ; and ordered *Dunderbead*, as he had *Finger-*
 ‘ *fee* before to look into the Matter.

‘ ‘ They both knew they had neither Law or Logick
 ‘ on their Side, and to wheedle and frighten the Te-
 ‘ nants, out of their Properties, was the only Game
 ‘ they had to play. To effect this reasonable and
 ‘ probable Purpose, they cast about for proper Agents

‘ ‘ and then they began to

' to send into *Ireland*; and one came on the Back of
 ' another, all different sort of Men, and all sure they
 ' could prevail upon the People to part with their Money.
 ' surrender their Leases, and become Tenants at Will,
 ' The first *Robin* sent, had as many Tricks in him
 ' as a High German Doctor; but not so honest as,
 ' like him, to return your Money after he had made
 ' it pass and be gone. The Tenants were aware of
 ' him, and he got nothing, but his Journey for his
 ' Pains (and a good Sallary.)

' Next came a grave, orderly, dark, cautious, hy-
 ' pocritical Rogue; a meer Frame of a Man in Pub-
 ' lick, but an intrepid Lyar and a damnable Atheist.
 ' The Tenants, however, were not then in a Humour
 ' to be bubbled, and *Robin*, who knew him well, had
 ' him called Home. In a Word, he was slow with-
 ' out Sense, and false without ever deceiving.

' He was succeeded by a plain, honest Country-like
 ' looking Man, who was judged a proper Agent to
 ' improve *Sir George's* Estate, because he had spent his
 ' own; but he was either too honest, or too indolent,
 ' to do much towards persuading People out of their
 ' Lands and Senses.

' One of the prettiest Fellows came after him in
 ' the whole World again. Smooth tongued and well
 ' mannered; and disposed to make the People make
 ' away themselves, and all they had; but they smoaked
 ' him, little as he thought for it, and had him fairly
 ' on the Hyp had he come again, but *Dunderhead*
 ' sent him elsewhere on a sleeveless Errand; and *Will*.
 ' *Rustycot*, a Spanish Broker took his Place.

' *Will*. found it not quite so easy to bubble Folks
 ' here, as to buy Treaties in *Spain*; and saving a little
 ' Bargain they got him (on account of quelling a Riot
 ' one Day) did just nothing; and made Way for *old*
 ' *Gravity* again, who as he was not yet found out by
 ' the Bulk of the Tenants, might have wheedled
 ' them to some bad Purpose, but for his Son a va-
 ' pouring Scab, and a great Swearer. He was for
 ' Neck or nothing; one of them he has got, and may

be the other is coming, for he certainly picked Pockets, and being caught in the Fact, gave the Money back, in Hopes to stop Prosecution, and get his Felony compounded.

Dunderhead was now amazed, at the ill Success of so many cunning, hypocritical, clever, wise, experienced Agents, as had been employed; so he thought himself of a very unusual Method whereby to accomplish his Purpose, (*viz.*) to send an Agent or two, who had neither Cunning, Hypocrisy or Experience in that Business, but should be universally known, to be honest, downright, fair dealing Men, and well spoken of by the whole Neighbourhood. There happened, for a Wonder, to be about *Sir George* two *West-Country* Lads of this Character, and them *Dunderhead* has sent over to *Ireland* to the great Joy of the Tenants, who are in great Hopes they will no longer be juggled with, as they have been heretofore; and indeed as yet all Appearances are favourable. There are cunning People, however, who remember the Story of the Miller of *Mobray*, who being chosen for his known Honesty to supply the Place, and do Justice to the Tenants, in returning fair Measure, took more Grist than ever was done before; (for indeed he took all) and being asked the Reason of that sudden Change in so honest a Man, said he could not account for it. An honest Man he came, and an honest Man he still was; but, *damn it, the Fault lies in the Mill.*

Yours, &c.

Dublin, May 27th, 1755.

P. S. I shall advise you from Time to Time how the Lads speed; and how the new Project they have of fortifying all the *Mansions* will take; the Thing may be useful under proper Regulations; but the Reason they give for this Design, is a very odd one, (*viz.*) *We see the Effect it had in Scotland.* Now the Parallell won't hold; *Sir George's* Tenants there, are for Attorning to one Mr. *Doelittle*, an old Claimant;

‘ whereas his Tenants here would live and die with
 ‘ him, and need not be forced to perform Covenants.

Is this, my Lord, generous ; is it civil : Fool or Knave, or both distinguish every Character : If justly ; in what Light will appear the Votes and Addresses of Thanks to his Majesty for sending some of these Noblemen to this Kingdom ; in what light the Prayers for their Return ; and what Insult to the great Person address’d ? If unjustly ; what Reparation can be made to the Persons so misrepresented ? What affront to the Nation that concurr’d in the supporting their Measures ? The Scandal is cloak’d, but the covering is Gause. The Kingdom saw its Drift ; and all the moderate condemn’d it.

It would, my Lord, be neither difficult nor unentertaining to trace the present Divisions from their very Infancy ; but the Story would be long and in some Parts complicate : The variety of Parties, their Hopes, Disappointments, Interests, and Fears would make a Volume : How the whole Body of the People became of late so warmly engag’d, will make a shorter Detail : In 1749, the great Abilities of a private Man roused an uncommon Ardour among Men, a Spirit of boldly speaking the boldest Truths : It wanted not Admirers, for it was pleasing in itself and new : But it was early oppos’d and warmly ; the most able rhym’d and wrote and voted against it ; it was painted destructive of Liberty, of Peace, and of Religion ; it is needless to tell your Lordship by whom : I will put no Man to the Blush by comparing his Writings of that Year and of this : That among others I approv’d the Spirit, but not its Excesses, your Lordship may well remember : It then step’d beyond the Lines of Decency ; how much farther since, the Labour of an Hour will convince you. But there were many Reasons then, and the greater part private, to discountenance it, to destroy it absolutely : It was indeed discountenanc’d ; — This Nation has felt many Shocks ; but should a Precedent be established

established to justify nothing less than robbing the Innocent of their Freeholds their Birth-right Privileges, of denying to Men the use of their Reason, and riveting Shackles on their Consciences, would the Cruelties of *Portugal*, the Inquisitory of *Spain* be more tyrannical? Good Heavens! What Clamours were then rais'd that the State, that the Church was in Danger? by whom were they rais'd, and against whom? could you be indifferent to the Peace of a Kingdom, it would, my Lord, afford you matter of Mirth: The great Bustle to suppress the Spirit of 1749, was followed by a Calm of Stupidity or Adulation; by an Acquiescence of the Nation to an Act made in *England*, wherein *Ireland* was omitted, purposely omitted by that great Man whom you will find characteriz'd in the List of late Governors, omitted with a prudent good Design, that this Kingdom should provide a convenient Act for itself: If I misrepresent, it is not designedly; if I offend the News Writer by speaking Truth, I am sorry for it, but he must excuse me; I am more affected by what has been done, than by what he has wrote; with his Talent I could enlarge on this Subject, for his Talent is Amplification; with his Heart I could give bitter Names; but I have neither; I can only say, there are Seasons, when as if the very Thought of Freedom was ungrateful, Men bow the Neck, put the Yoke upon themselves, and with more than Spaniel-fawning solicit Servitude: Shall I, my Lord, illustrate? Your Lordship knows there are such: They will do it for the Loaves and the Fishes: While these are secure, no Mole so blind; when Danger threatens these, no Lynx so quick sighted; who eat the Fruit, my Lord, with Caution watch the Garden: What the Cries of Conscience, what Justice to themselves and their Posterity, what the *Dulcis Amor Patriæ* cannot bring to pass, Self-love will oft-times effect. Of a sudden the whole Scene was chang'd, new Measures were concerted; the dangerous oppressed Spirit of Freedom was reviv'd; it was cherish'd by its first Oppressors.

Oppressors, it was made the Anchor of Hope: How alter'd was the Demeanour of Men? What Reverence of those whom they once contemn'd? What Contempt of those whom they once rever'd? so sudden so amazing was the Change, that thousands were made to believe that God and not Mammon work'd the Miracle: Occasions were lucky and many laudable Acts were done; a Publick Officer was censur'd; and a certain Bill was, I think, justly rejected; your Lordship knows why I think so: If the Clause was Nugatory, it was Nugatory to support it: If design'd for some public Good, of which the Publick could not be made intelligent; what Injury or Affront to the Crown, that the People rejected what they did not understand: If I am wrong, Refutation comes from no Man so pleasingly as from your Lordship: But my Lord, Actions may be approv'd, when the Actors cannot; I wish it was otherwise, but I wish more ardently that even Actions could always be justified: To oppose what deserves Opposition is just, to oppose like Men is pleasing: But fiery Invectives and uncivil Behaviour towards Superiors, undistinguished Insult to all Magistrates who have hitherto represented so good a K—g, causeless Scoffs aim'd at the present Governor, light Expressions concerning the K—g himself; to what do they tend but that Remissness of Government, which made a wise Man say, better it is to live where nothing is lawful, than where all Things are lawful: Let us have Laws, but not abuse them; *Tollatur Lex, et fiat Certamen, Destroy all Law, and recur to Violence*, is a dreadful Maxim: Let us encourage Liberty, but not its Excess: For Liberty stretch'd too far is like the Grape too much press'd which yields a bitter Wine: Why should an angry Writer oppose that Harmony which is the Prayer of every Corporation which has hitherto address'd his Excellency? *Ubi Zelus et Contentio, ibi Inconstantia et omne opus pravam*; was the saying of a Wise Apostle, and no less applicable to civil than to religious Heats: Why was the Flame rekindled with such Violence,

on the Approach of the present Governor? What had he done to provoke the Indignation of any one Man? Why is he lectur'd this Day, menac'd the next, and ridicul'd the Third? Read the Papers, my Lord, and perhaps they may explain it, you will there find frequent Repetition of lost Places, and profitable Appointments:——— But allow that the Design of all this Violence is the Nation's Welfare; are the Means adequate? If the sole View be to enact wholesome Laws for this Country; is the Concurrence of his Majesty in Council to be forc'd? I am sure no Man wishes it: Is it to be won by Abuse of all his Ministers in *England*, and his Deputies here? I believe no Man can think so: Are Laws to be made without his Consent? God forbid.

My Lord, the Seeds of malicious Seditions are laid more in mixt than in democratical Governments: Their Seeds are the Violence of Passions that incite Men to them; and the Intricacy of Questions concerning Prerogative and Privilege: Violent Appetites for Power incite a few only, for only a few can hope for the Honours of a Nation; when the Multitude falls in with these unhappy Humours, it is generally from Mistake, to which the freest People are most subject; they are easily perswaded that many Things are Evils which in Fact are not so, and swallow Promises of Redress, where Redress is not intended, and where it would prove mischievous: It is a Mistake to the People, for they are deceived; but it is Malice in those who deceive them: And by intricate Questions it is easy to deceive them. It is Cruelty not to be parallell'd when the private Lust of Power hurries Men to embarrass and fight against Government, to embroil a Nation, dissolve the social Intercourse and destroy the tender Charities of Father, Brother, Husband, Son and Friend, which only can make Life worth enduring. Yet to such Excesses the Lust of Power has carried and still carries ambitious Men: How have they disturb'd the sweet Peace of this Kingdom, and by well contriv'd Alarms frighted it into Commotions, into all the Poverty and almost the Rage of War? That Harmony again may subsist amongst us, that peaceful Industry may heal the Wounds of this afflicted Country, and the Wheels of Government move smoothly, unobstructed by Faction, is the sincere Wish of one who loves Liberty and detests Licentiousness, much more than the pretended Champion of his Country; it is the Wish, my Lord, of your Lordship; and of one who is proud to subscribe himself your Lordship's Servant. 6 DE 58

